

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Lesson 20 Christ the Savior

What does it mean that Jesus is “the Savior?” Many do not know. As ignorance of the Bible increases the knowledge of sin and its consequences decreases. The general populace learns its views about Christ from the media. Only the worst of crimes are considered to be sins or “deadly sins.” Other sins are considered to be small and of no account to God. When the words “salvation” or “savior” are mentioned, people wonder, “Saved from what?” Most fail to realize they are in immediate danger of being judged and cast into hell for all eternity. They do not realize that Jesus Himself is judge of the living and the dead. He is the one we need to be saved from. Jesus is the savior in this life, but judge in the next. Therefore, one of the most important questions a person can ask is, “*Who can save me from the eternal consequences of my sin?*” The answer is, “Jesus Christ!” Jesus is the “*Savior of all men*” (**I Tim. 4:10**) and is the “*one mediator between God and Man*” (**I Tim. 2:5**) “*No one can come to the Father but through Christ*” (**Jn. 14:6**) and there is “*no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved*” (**Acts 4:12**) In this study we will study Jesus Christ as Savior.

I. DEFINITION OF CHRIST AS SAVIOR

- A. *New Bible Dictionary*: “The name Jesus is not strictly a title for the person who bore it. It is, however, a name with a meaning, being a Greek form of ‘Joshua’, i.e. ‘Yahweh is salvation’. The New Testament writers were well aware of this meaning (Mt. 1:21). The name thus indicated the function which was ascribed to Jesus, and this later found expression in the title Saviour, which was at first simply a description of the function of Jesus (Acts 5:31; 13:23; Phil. 3:20) but then became part of his solemn title (2 Tim. 1:10; Tit. 1:4; 2 Pet. 1:11).”¹
- B. *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia*: “A term applied to mighty men, rulers, and ancient gods, but supremely in the Bible to Jesus Christ. . . The term presupposes a danger, a disaster, from which the rescuer snatched the one whom he helped. The term in both the Old Testament and the New Testament suggests deliverance from the worst affliction and trouble known to mankind—deliverance from sin.”²
- C. *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*: “Savior – a person who rescues others from evil, danger, or destruction. The Old Testament viewed God Himself as the Savior: “There is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior” (Is. 45:21). Because God

¹ *New Bible Dictionary*, under “Jesus Christ, Titles of,” Logos Bible Software.

² *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, vol. 5, pg. 291.

is the source of salvation, He sent human deliverers to rescue His people, Israel (Ps. 106:21; Is. 43:3, 11). This word was also used to describe the judges of Israel, those “saviors” or “deliverers” who rescued God’s people from oppression by their enemies (Judg. 3:9, 15).

In the New Testament the word for “savior” describes both God the Father (1 Tim. 1:1; Jude 25) and Jesus Christ the Son (Acts 5:31; Phil. 3:20). The apostles rejoiced that in Christ, God had become the “Savior of all men” (1 Tim. 4:10). He was the Savior of Gentiles as well as Jews. As Christians, we are exhorted to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18).³

II. SCRIPTURAL PROOF OF CHRIST AS SAVIOR

A. Old Testament Prophecies of Christ as Savior

1. **Gen. 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
2. **Isa. 19:19-23** In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord near its border. 20 It will become a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the Lord because of oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Champion, and He will deliver them. 21 Thus the Lord will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the Lord and perform it. 22 The Lord will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the Lord, and He will respond to them and will heal them. 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.
3. **Isa. 49:6** He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
4. **Zech. 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

³Nelson's *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1995).

B. Jesus' Self Affirmation of Savior

1. **Lk. 19:10** "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
2. **Jn. 3:16-17** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.
3. **Jn. 10:9** "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

C. Angelic Witness that Christ is Savior

1. **Matt. 1:21** "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."
2. **Luke 2:11** for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

D. Believers Witness of Christ as Savior

1. **Lk. 19:36-40** As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. 37 As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, 38 shouting: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." 40 But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"
2. **Jn. 1:44-49** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."

3. **Jn. 4:42** and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

E. **Apostolic Witness of Christ as Savior**

1. **Acts 4:12** “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”
2. **Acts 5:31** “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
3. **Eph. 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.
4. **I Thess. 1:10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
5. **I Tim. 1:15** It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.
6. **I Tim. 2:3** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
7. **I Tim. 4:10** For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.
8. **Titus 3:5-6** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
9. **Heb. 7:25** Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
10. **II Pet. 1:11** for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.
11. **I John 4:14** We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

III. **ERRORS CONCERNING CHRIST THE SAVIOR**

- A. Jesus is one of many saviors.
- B. I believe Jesus Christ is the Savior but not the Jesus of the Bible.
- C. I believe Jesus Christ the Savior used to be Michael the archangel.
- D. I believe Jesus is Savior but not God or only god with a little “g.”
- E. I believe the Savior Jesus Christ is an exceptionally good man, a prophet, but not God in human flesh.
- F. Jesus in no way died for the non-elect.
- G. Jesus only saves those who on their own, unaided by the grace of God, seek Him as Savior.
- H. Jesus accomplished salvation for sinners through His death on the cross and subsequent resurrection but we must also do our own good works in addition to Christ’s work in order to be saved.
- I. Jesus is unable to save some whom He has chosen before the foundation of the world.

IV. **APPLICATION OF CHRIST THE SAVIOR**

- A. If you don’t know Christ as Savior you need to receive Him as your Savior now. You need to know:
 - 1. Who God is and what He is like.
 - 2. What man is like.
 - 3. What God’s response must be.
 - 4. What God’s plan is to save sinners.
 - 5. Who Christ is.
 - 6. What Christ did.
 - 7. What we must do to be saved.

- B. Jesus Christ is the only one who can save you from your sin, there is no other person, place, or thing that can save you from the consequences of your sin.
- C. Christ is able to save you forever from your sins.
- D. Christ is able to save you from any amount, degree, or kind of sin.
- E. Christ saves you from all judgement because of sin.
- F. Christ saves you from sin and the curse.

“He shall save his people from their sins.” — Matthew 1:21

Many persons, if they are asked what they understand by salvation, will reply, “Being saved from hell and taken to heaven.” This is one result of salvation, but it is not one tithe of what is contained in that boon. It is true our Lord Jesus Christ does redeem all his people from the wrath to come; he saves them from the fearful condemnation which their sins had brought upon them; but his triumph is far more complete than this. He saves his people “from their sins.” Oh! sweet deliverance from our worst foes. Where Christ works a saving work, he casts Satan from his throne, and will not let him be master any longer. No man is a true Christian if sin reigns in his mortal body. Sin will be in us—it will never be utterly expelled till the spirit enters glory; but it will never have dominion. There will be a striving for dominion—a lusting against the new law and the new spirit which God has implanted—but sin will never get the upper hand so as to be absolute monarch of our nature. Christ will be Master of the heart, and sin must be mortified. The Lion of the tribe of Judah shall prevail, and the dragon shall be cast out. Professor! is sin subdued in you? If your life is unholy your heart is unchanged, and if your heart is unchanged you are an unsaved person. If the Saviour has not sanctified you, renewed you, given you a hatred of sin and a love of holiness, he has done nothing in you of a saving character. The grace which does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves his people, not in their sins, but from them. “Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.” “Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” If not saved from sin, how shall we hope to be counted among his people. Lord, save me now from all evil, and enable me to honour my Saviour. ⁴

⁴ Charles Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*, Evening Reading, Feb. 8, Logos Bible Software.